

"EVENING PRAYER AT A GIRL'S SCHOOL."

BY MRS. FELICIA HEMANS.

Hush! 'tis a holy hour—the quiet room
Seems like a temple, while yon soft lamp sheds
A faint and starry radiance through the gloom
And the sweet stillness down on bright young heads
With all their clustering locks, untouched by care,
And bowed, as flowers are bowed with night—in prayer.

Gaze on—'tis lovely!—childhood's lip and cheek
Mounting beneath its earnest brow of thought—
Gaze—yet what seest thou in those fair, and meek,
And fragile things, as but for sunshine wrought?—
Thou seest what grief must nurture for the sky,
What death must fashion into eternity.

Oh! joyous creatures, that will sink to rest,
Lightly, when those pure orisons are done,
As birds with summer's honey dew oppressed
Midst the dim folded leaves, at set of sun—
Lift up your hearts! though yet no sorrow lies
Dark in the summer-heaven of those clear blue eyes;

Though fresh within your breast, the untroubled spring
Of hope make melody where'er ye tread:
And o'er your sleep bright shadows from the wings
Of spirits visiting but youth, be spread,
Yet in those flute-like voices, mingling low,
Is woman's tenderness—how soon her woe!

Her lot is on you—silent tears to weep
And patient smiles to wear through suffering's hour,
And sunless riches from affection's deep
To pour on broken reeds—a wasted shower!
And to make idols, and to find them clay,
And to bewail that worship—therefore pray!

Her lot is on you—to be found untired,
Watching the stars out by the bed of pain
With a pale cheek and yet a brow inspired,
And a true heart of hope, though hope be vain,
Meekly to bear with wrong, to cheer decay,
And oh! to love through all things—therefore pray.

And take the thought of this calm vesper time,
With its low murmuring songs and silvery light
On through the dark days fading from their prime
As a sweet dew to keep your souls from blight.
Earth will forsake—oh! happy to have given
The unbroken heart's first fragrance unto heaven.

Mrs. Hemans' poem, "Evening Prayer at a Girl's School," recently appeared in the Fulton Sun with the following note and appended "Counterpart," submitted by Mr. John F. Cowan:

MR. EDITOR:—Mrs. Felicia Hemans was one of England's sweetest poets. She is the author of such poems as "The Better Land," "The Landing of the Pilgrims," "Casablanca," "Christ's Agony in the Garden," "He Never Smiled Again" and many others with which lovers of poetry are familiar. Her poem, "Evening Prayer at a Girl's School" is, I think, very sweet and beautiful. I have read it a great many times and always see some new beauty in it. Studying it this past summer, it seems to me that perhaps there sobbed through it too much of a minor key, presumptuous as it may seem, I ventured to write its counterpart, "Morning Prayer at a Girl's School" to which I have tried to give a brighter and more cheerful tone.

Very truly,
Jno. F. Cowan.

"MORNING PRAYER AT A GIRL'S SCHOOL."

BY DR. JOHN F. COWAN.

The shades of night have vanished with their gloom,
And beams of sunshine in the chapel play;
The holy hour of morning prayer has come,
And thronging girls begin the bright new day
With hymn of praise for heaven's watchful care,
And offering up of simple loving prayer.

Brightly they come from restful sleep of youth,
And from sweet dreams that cheer like angel's touch,
With fair fresh faces shining clear as truth,
And hearts where lives a faith undoubting—such
As reigned in Virgin Mary's guileless soul
When plans divine high Gabriel did unroll.

The song begins—the voices sweet and low—
And wafts its praises to God's listening ear,
While passing bands of angels fly more slow,
This heaven-like melody of earth to hear,
And bathe with thrill of sympathy intense
In this uprising wave of innocence.

Low bowed in prayer each gentle head—each heart
Makes its petition for its simple needs
To Him who will His grace and love impart,
Who all His helpless creatures daily feeds;
Who gives deliverance from evil—though
The meaning of that word they dimly know.

Not Heaven's angels are they, but of earth.
Trained in earth's lore and holy truths of Heaven,
No tongue can tell the measure of their worth,
Nor bounds of power which God to them has given.
Is it their lot earth's heavy woes to share?
'Tis their earth's moral diadem to wear!

Not Heaven's angels stand they far below!
'Tis their's to be on earth incarnate love;
Their's wondrous mother-love to feel and know
And train earth's budding life to climb above—
Their children walking safely where they tread—
O, earth's sweet helpers up to Heaven and God!

Their grief, their hours of sharp, vicarious pain
That rouse man's sympathy to see them bear,
Are but God's crosses which with cutting strain,
Lift up the world through them from dark despair:
God's laws which them to these rough crosses bind
Make them the earthly saviors of mankind.

Sacred the time and place! holy the throng!
Well may the sunshine lend their room its cheer:
Well may be sweet and glad their morning song—
The symbol incense of their woman's sphere.
Earth, longing, waits to feel the holy power
Benignant Heaven has given them as their dower.

RUSSIAN SCHOOLS.

The School Garden and What It Does for Pupils

For the commencement of the movement for school gardens in Russia one has to go as far back as 1871. At that time the Russian government adopted measures for the introduction of nature studies and for practice in rural industries in the primary schools of the empire. The peasantry, however, were generally apathetic and often hostile. School education, it seemed to them, should consist of "book learning." As a result of their indifference at the end of ten years only six school districts were thus equipped. Gradually, however, as the benefit of the new movement became more widely understood, opposition was silenced and applications for special appropriations for the establishment and maintenance of gardens began to pour in so fast as to actually strain the resources of the central administration.

By the year 1897 the number of school gardens in the whole of Russia proper was 7,521—in other words, about 300,000 children were receiving "practical tuition." From the reports of Consul Heenan and from other sources it would seem a conservative computation to put the number of Russian children at present enjoying this particular branch of instruction at 520,000.

When the subject first began to engage the attention of the Russian authorities, says Pearson's Magazine, it was found—as it had been in other countries—difficult to obtain teachers of sufficient versatility to successfully discharge the duties of the new system. This difficulty was, however, met by an action of the government, which guaranteed the salaries, not only of the local tutors, but of itinerant experts intrusted with the initiation of the teachers in their new duties. As a further encouragement medals, diplomas and even premiums were awarded, while in many cases the teachers were permitted to derive a profit from the sale of the produce raised on the model gardens.

In many Russian provinces the children are encouraged to plant trees of all kinds in the neighborhood of the school building, such as forest, fruit bearing and decorative trees and shrubs. In addition to these ornamental and fruit bearing plants and young trees are distributed among the parents for private planting. Silk worms and bees are also cultivated systematically by the pupils and provide an additional source of income to the teacher. Along with the garden work proper provision is made for the instruction of girls in those branches of domestic and rural industry with which women have generally to occupy themselves—dairy work, bird breeding, cooking, sewing, nursing, and so on.

ICELAND.

Land Where Molten Rock Vies with the Glaciers

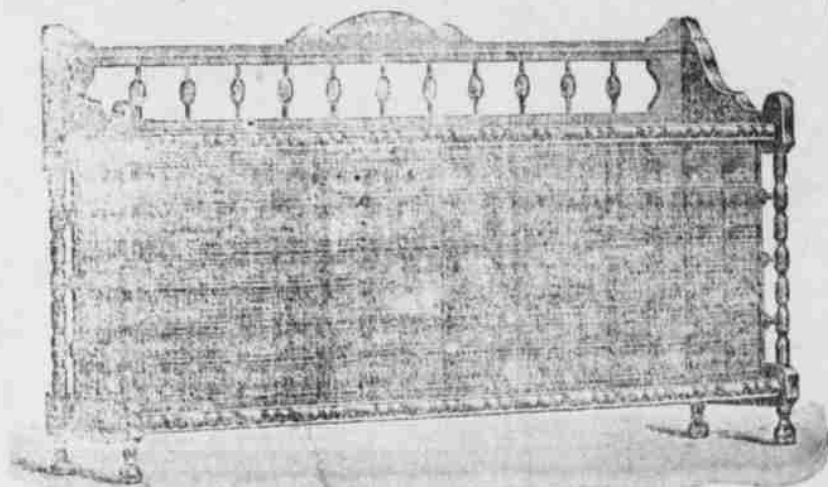
Iceland is a paradoxical land—it might almost as justly have been called fireland, for there frost and fire are strangely mingled. The lofty mountains, towering skyward, are clad with snow fields and glaciers, yet at the same time send forth fire and steam and molten rock. At times the eruption, bursting forth suddenly, melts the ice and snow on the mountain sides, and great floods rush down into the valleys. On the cooled surface of the lava flow ice and snow accumulate, and then perhaps a new flow of lava covers up the ice without melting it. The ice is thus shut up as in a great natural ice house, and may be so preserved for thousands of years. Dr. Geikie mentions a case in which a layer of ice occurs between two beds of lava in a geological section. The antiquity of such a bed of ice is to be measured in thousands and tens of thousands of years. On a smaller scale is the famous El-hobie, a natural ice house not far from Casselburg in the Eigel. There on the hottest day in summer ice is to be found. This ice is famous, and was always served at the table of the elect of Cologne. And if in northern Iceland we have a paradoxical approximation of heat and cold, it is not otherwise in the far south, for in the antarctic regions Mount Erebus sends forth its fiery torrents and the hot stream which rushes aloft falls as snow on the leeward side of the mountain.

The Sultan's Poor Judgment.

The sultan of Morocco did not show much judgment in the choice of a present for Emperor William. It consisted of ten horses of a delicate breed. It was soon found that they could not stand the Berlin climate. One had to be shot, while the others were given by the emperor to friends, with the proviso that they must not be sold or given away again.

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Letters of administration on the estate of Solomon Everhart, deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 12th day of November, 1901, by the probate court of Lafayette county, Missouri.
All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them for allowance to the administrator within one year after the date of said letters or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate; and if such claims be not exhibited within two years from the date of said letters they will be forever barred.
This 12th day of November, 1901.
GEORGE U. FISHBACK,
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